

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: John Ah Sue, et al.

Serial No.: 10/040,699 Examiner: Murphy, Rhonda

Filed: December 28, 2001 Group Art Unit: 2616

Confirmation No.: 2473

For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USING AN INSTANT
MESSENGER HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM INTERFACE
USING A HOME ROUTER**


Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION TO OVERCOME A CITED PUBLICATION (37 C.F.R. 1.131)

1. The person making this declaration is John Ah SUE inventor of the above-referenced patent application ("Application").
2. Certain claims of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/040,699 are currently rejected in view of certain references, *inter alia*, under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0117280 A1 (Prehn). Prehn has an effective filing date in the United States ("Effective Date") of December 20, 2001.
4. Actual reduction to practice of the invention that is the subject of the claims in the present application occurred in this country at least as early as December 19, 2001. Namely, a working model of the entire claimed invention was in operation at my residence utilizing a c827 router at least as early as December 19, 2001.
5. An invention submission form that was submitted to Cisco at least before December 19th, 2001 corroborates the declaration that a working model was in operating at

my residence. See Exhibit A, page 3, line 12, line 16 and line 36. Certain confidential portions of the invention submission form have been redacted.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



John Ah SUE

Dated: 3/13/07

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Idea Details (#141408)

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A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AN INSTANT MESSENGER HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM INTERFACE USING A HOME ROUTER

CPOL No.: 141408 Seq No.: 4948 Status: Pending Submitted: 14-Jul-2001 Modified: 06-Feb-2007

Portfolio Manager

Idea Details

The contents of this submission and all more attorneys and/or supporting persons.

Inventors: **Email Inve:**

John Ah Sue

Type: Regular

Background: Home Automation is a technology that allows you to do things such as controlling home appliances (e.g. alarm or coffee machine) and getting notification from motion sensors.

At the moment, there are computer-based applications that allow the user to control home appliances. Through a WEB browser

or email the user can control these appliances remotely.

EXHIBIT A

Page 2 of 3

Instant Messaging is an Internet Application that allows a group of people to send instant text messages to one another on their computer. Each user needs to install an Instant Messenger client application onto his computer and then log on to a server.

The invention here is the creation of a device that combines Home Automation and Instant Messaging technologies together. With this device the user can control home appliances from anywhere through a regular Instant Messenger software installed on a PC.

Possible Prior Art: ---

Summary: In this invention the device that combines Home Automation and Instant Messaging is a Cisco SOHO router. The Home Automation technology is from a company called X10. The Instant Messaging technology is from Yahoo.

Router as Home Automation controller:

The router interfaces with a special X10 device, the CM11A, which acts a PLC transceiver for the X10 modules, i.e. remotely-controllable switches and motion sensors. The router connects to the CM11A through the console port, which is being used as a serial port. The router sends commands to the CM11A to turn on/off/dim X10 switches and the CM11A relays them to the switches through the power line. When a motion sensor detects something or an X10 switch is turned on/off the CM11A notifies the router about that event.

Router as an Instant Messenger client:

The router can act as an Instant Messenger client by logging on to the Instant Messenger server. If the router is in the same peer group as another person, the router will appear as a "friend" or "buddy" inside that person's Instant Messenger software. That person can send instant messages to the router and vice-versa.

Router combining Home Automation with Instant Messaging:

When the router receives an event from CM11A, e.g. motion detected in the garden, it will immediately send an instant message to a specified user who is currently logged onto the Instant Messenger. That person will be notified onto his computer with a message saying "Garden Sensor has turned on". The person can then immediately send an instant message back to the router to, say turn on the alarm. The message sent is something like "X10 turn on alarm". The router would interpret this pseudo-English command and send the appropriate commands to the CM11A to turn on the alarm.

What is new here:

-
1. The Home Automation controller here is a router, instead of an application running on a PC.
 2. The user gets notified of events and can remotely control home appliances through the friendly interface of an Instant Messenger program.

Restatement: ---

Advantages: 1. A user who uses a PC-based application as home controller must leave the PC on all the time if he wants to monitor the house

continuously. Normally, a home router is on all the time and consumes little power. If the router is the home controller there is no extra power used and the PC can be turned off.
 2. By using Instant Messaging the user can get notified of events anywhere in the world where he can log on to the Instant Messenger (even through firewall). The notification is immediate and the interface is very user friendly.

First Written Record Date: 18-Jun-2001

First Written Record URLs: The record is an email message I sent to myself.

Cisco Use: ---This invention is applicable mostly to a home-based networking device, such as a router.

A prototype already exists on a c827 router.

Working Model: -----

Industry Use: Description of possible uses of the technology by others in the industry:

Public Use: ---It has not been disclosed to the public. I have been using it at my home.

Government Use: ---

Detecting Use: This invention is the combination of two technologies onto a home networking device. Basically, if someone can control home appliances through an Instant Messenger program and the device that allows this to happen is a home networking device then they may be infringing.

Standards: ---

Technologies: • Network Management

Networking Solutions: • Large Enterprise > Networking Solutions for Large Enterprise > Network Management Solutions for Large Enterprise > Routing and Switching Management Solution
 • Service Provider > Networking Solutions for Service Providers > Content Networking Solutions for Service Providers > Internet CDN Solution for Service Providers

Categorization Notes:

Categories Summary
 [In] [Rou]

PDDs: ---

Supporting Documents:

- The code implementing this idea is on the server leafs in Cisco.